(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue of passing on full excise duty benefits on liberalisation to consumers is likely to be taken up in such meetings; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to achieve the aforesaid purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Non-Official Members on Management Committee of Super Bazar

30. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-official members are appointed on the Management Committee of Super Bazar Cooperative Society;

(b) if so, what is the composition of the present Committee and how many vacancies exist at present;

(c) whether Government have received any recommendations for appointment from Members of Parliament; and

(d) if so, the names of Members of Parliament recommending the names of persons on Management Committee during the last three years and in how many cases persons recommended by MPs have been nominated on the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Managing Committee of Super Bazar consists of 15 members out of which 5 are elected and 10 are nominated. From among the 10 nominated members, 4 are Government officers, 5 are non-officials and the General Manager is the ex-officio member. At present one vacancy exists on account of death of an elected member.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the last three years, recommendations for nominations to the Managing Committee of the Super Bazar, were received from the following members of Parliament:—

1. Shri Sharad Pawar
2. Shri Rafique Alam
3. Shri Rajesh Khanna
4. Shri Somji Bhai Dhamor
5. Smt. Chandrika A. Jain
6. Shri G.M. Khan

Only in respect of one of the nominees in the Managing Committee of Super Bazar a recommendation from a Member of Parliament was received.

Effect of Monsoon on Buffer Stocks for Distribution through PDS

31. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that monsoon all over the country will have an adverse impact on buffer stocks held for distribution through PDS;

(b) what are the contingency measures planned to be put into operation to ensure continued supplies of essential commodities to weaker sections and also to prevent free market forces from exploiting the situation; and

(c) wheather Government would go in for import of foodgrains including pulses for distribution through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFIARS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.7.1995 stood at 35.6 million tonnes as against 22.3 million tonnes of foodgrains required to be maintained under buffer stocking policy. In view of this, there is no difficulty in meeting the requirements

of foodgrains for Public Distribution System (PDS), after taking into account factors like monsoon etc. Therefore, there is no need to import foodgrains for PDS. Central Government has no proposal to include pulses under PDS. However, State Governments are free to add pulses for distribution through PDS. The import of pulses is under Open General Licence and the import duty has been reduced to five per cent from the earlier level of ten per cent in order to facilitate imports.

Delicensing of Wheat/Rice Trade by States

32. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which are not in favour of delicensing of wheat, rice and other food articles trade in confirmity with the National Food Policy and the reasons given by them;

(b) the percentage of foodgrains lifted by the States in the last three years against the Central allocation; and

(c) whether it is a fact that as a result of the present pricing system, the foodgrains have become out of reach of the population below the poverty line, if so, the steps taken to help this class of population?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Taking an overall view of the food situation, Central Government have requested all the Sates/UTs to remove wheat, wheat products and coarsegrains from the purview of licensing. So, far, only the State Governments of Orissa and Punjab have expressed reservations in de-licensing wheat on account of the existing local conditions. Regarding de-licensing of rice, no decision has been taken.

(b)

	Year	Percentage of lifting against allocation
Rice	1992-93 (p)	81.44
	1993-94 (p)	71.60
	1994-95 (p)	59.79
Wheat	1992-93 (p)	79.90
	1993-94 (p)	61.09
	1994-95 (p)	44.28

(p) = provisional

(c) The Central issue prices are fixed by the Government deliberately below the economic cost keeping in view the interest of vulnerable sections of the population. Central issue prices of wheat and rice meant for RPDS are further subsidised by Rs. 50/- per quintal less than the CIP- for normal PDS. The Central Government also implements the following schemes for the benefit of the weaker sections of the Society:—

(i) Issue of wheat and rice at concessional rate of Rs. 1000 per tonne less than the CIP for PDS to the below poverty line families under the employment generation scheme for manufacturing food products;

(ii) Release of rice and wheat at Rs. 500 per tonne less than the CIP for PDS to SC/ST/OBC/ Hostels, having at least two-third inmates belonging to these categories.

(iii) Release of wheat to Modern Food Industries India Ltd., for bread manufacturing and for production of energy @ Rs. 1000 per metric tonne less than the CIP for PDS subject to reduction of the bread prices by 50 paise for 800 gm. loaf and 25 paise for 400 gm. loaf.